

**Amendments to the Claims:**

*This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:*

Claims 1 - 13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) A water redispersible polymer powder, comprising:

- a) base polymer particles prepared by polymerizing monomers comprising at least one monomer selected from the group consisting of vinyl esters of optionally branched C<sub>1-15</sub> alkylcarboxylic acids, (meth)acrylic esters of C<sub>1-15</sub> alcohols, vinyl aromatics, monoolefins, dienes, and vinyl halides; and
- b) at least one modified polyvinyl alcohol protective colloid selected from the group consisting of polyvinyl alcohol copolymers containing copolymer units having a latent carboxylic acid functionality, copolymer units containing phosphorous, and copolymers containing both copolymer units having a latent carboxylic acid functionality and copolymer units containing phosphorus.

15. (Previously Presented) The polymer composition of claim 14, wherein the modified polyvinyl alcohols comprise one or more comonomer units selected from the group consisting of methacrylic esters and acrylic esters of C<sub>1-15</sub> alcohols.

16. (Previously Presented) The polymer composition of claim 14, wherein the modified polyvinyl alcohols comprise one or more comonomer units selected from the group consisting of vinylphosphonic acid, and methacrylic esters and acrylic esters of polyalkylene glycols which are end-modified by phosphoric acid and contain from 1 to 100 C<sub>2-4</sub> oxyalkylene units.

17. (Previously Presented) The polymer composition of claim 14, obtained by means of spray drying an aqueous polymer dispersion stabilized with at least one modified

polyvinyl alcohol having a latent carboxylic acid function or a modified polyvinyl alcohol comprising phosphorus-containing comonomer units, in the presence of partially hydrolyzed, unmodified polyvinyl alcohol as an atomization aid.

18. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a water redispersible polymer powder of claim 14, comprising polymerizing a monomer mixture comprising at least one monomer selected from the group consisting of vinyl esters of optionally branched C<sub>1-15</sub> alkylcarboxylic acids, (meth)acrylic esters of C<sub>1-15</sub> alcohols, monolefins, dienes, vinyl aromatics, and vinyl halides, in the presence of at least one modified protective colloid selected from the group consisting of modified polyvinyl alcohol copolymers containing copolymer units having a latent carboxylic acid functionality, copolymer units containing phosphorous, and copolymers containing both copolymer units having a latent carboxylic acid functionality and copolymer units containing phosphorus, and spray drying to form a polymer powder.

19. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 18, wherein a further polyvinyl alcohol protective colloid different from said modified polyvinyl alcohol copolymer is present during polymerization.

20. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 18, wherein prior to spray drying, a further protective colloid is added.

21. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 20, wherein said further protective colloid comprises a polyvinyl alcohol homopolymer or copolymer not containing latent carboxylic acid units and not containing units containing phosphorous.

22. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 20, wherein said further protective colloid comprises at least one protective colloid selected from the group consisting of polyvinyl alcohol copolymers containing copolymer units having a latent carboxylic acid functionality, copolymer units containing phosphorous, and copolymers containing both copolymer units having a carboxylic acid functionality and copolymer units containing phosphorus.

23. (Previously Presented) A process for the preparation of a water redispersible polymer powder of claim 14, comprising supplying a polymer dispersion stabilized with one or more protective colloids and spray drying to form a polymer powder, and prior to spray drying, adding a further protective colloid selected from the group consisting of modified polyvinyl alcohol copolymers containing copolymer units having a latent carboxylic acid functionality, copolymer units containing phosphorous, and copolymers containing both copolymer units having a carboxylic acid functionality and copolymer units containing phosphorus.

24. (Previously Presented) A building construction composition comprising a mineral filler and a redispersible polymer powder of claim 14.

25. (Previously Presented) A building construction composition comprising a hydraulically settable binder and a redispersible polymer powder of claim 14.

26. (Previously Presented) The building construction composition of claim 25 which is alkaline such that latent carboxylic acid units in the redispersible polymer powder are at least partially hydrolyzed, liberating alcohol.

27. (Previously Presented) The building construction composition of claim 25, wherein said hydraulically settable binder is selected from the group consisting of gypsum, lime, cement, waterglass, and mixtures thereof.

28. (Previously Presented) A binder-containing paper a textile product containing at least one redispersible polymer powder of claim 14.